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Roman Empire, and Europe in the early Middle Ages. It is singular that India and China should not be included among the oriental nations.

The most difficult task in writing a text of this sort is to know what to omit. The author has been quite successful in keeping out of his book non-essentials, but occasionally he brings in material and expressions that might have been left out. It is much better to give an adequate presentation of the most important facts than to furnish a summary of a large number of facts. Undue space has been given to the treatment of Hellenistic culture, to the early legends of Rome, to the origin of Rome, the Samnite Wars, and several other topics. It is to be hoped that in a later edition these defects will be remedied. The value of the book might likewise be increased by removing a few of the many pictures of individuals, which are of relatively little value, and substituting illustrations that will more adequately typify the culture of the peoples treated.

On the whole, the book is of considerable merit and in the hands of a good teacher should yield satisfactory results.

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*Spanish Correspondence.* By E. S. HARRISON, New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1907. Pp. 157.

As the teaching of Spanish ought to be eminently practical and careful attention must be paid to the subject of letter-writing, any new publication along this line should be received most favorably. Recently Henry Holt & Co., New York, have published, under the title of *Spanish Correspondence*, a little textbook by means of which the author, Mr. E. S. Harrison, instructor of Spanish in the Commercial High School, Brooklyn, N. Y., hopes that "the student may be enabled to write an intelligible letter in Spanish on an ordinary business subject."

The book contains much and varied material.

A criticism which may be made is as follows: Why not have the letters written from Spanish or Latin-American commercial houses to American firms and vice-versa? Certainly there will be no commercial correspondence carried on in Spanish between American business firms, besides the author loses through this an excellent opportunity to acquaint the pupil with foreign business affairs, as he has done, for example, in a few letters (Nos. 47, 59, 100, 101, 103). Therefore, instead of ordering *A Ladder of Swords* at Harper Bros., New York (Letter No. 88), and subscribing to *Everybody's Magazine* (Letter No. 9), would it not have been better to give the name of some prominent Spanish publishing house, the name of a good Spanish novel, or of a Spanish or Mexican magazine? Or would it not have been still better to have written a letter to Guatemala, Costa-Rica, Honduras, or Cuba, ordering coffee, bananas, tobacco, cacao, and sugar? The same thing is noticeable in letter No. 12; Messrs. Albert & Co., New York, send to Messrs. Brown, Smith & Co., Buffalo, N. Y., a draft on the Fifth National Bank. This letter would have presented a fine opportunity to give the name of a Spanish, Mexican, or other bank, and to make use of the

monetary system of that country. There are also a few words and expressions which ought to be avoided in the next edition. Among others, "actitud civilizante" (Letter 103), and "elementos educacionales" (Letter 102).

The exercises under the heading of "Letter Outlines" are valuable, although one has to make the same criticism as before—they are all written to and come from firms of this country. But the teacher can easily avoid this, making suitable and appropriate changes.

On the whole Mr. Harrison is to be complimented for writing a book which, with the exceptions of the criticisms noted above, is good and supplies a greatly needed want.

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*Selections from Irving's Sketchbook.* ("Gateway Series.") Edited by MARTIN B. SAMPSON. New York: American Book Co., 1907.

*Select Essays of Ralph Waldo Emerson.* ("Gateway Series.") Edited by HENRY VAN DYKE. New York: American Book Co., 1907. Pp. 245.

*Selections from Chaucer.* ("The Lake English Classics.") Edited by EDWIN A. GREENLAW. Chicago: Scott, Foresman & Co. Pp. 316.

In his edition of Irving's *Sketchbook*, Professor Sampson follows the general course of the "Gateway Series" of English classics by making his notes simple, thorough, short and clear. Unlike many editors of English classics Professor Sampson has fresh, first-hand information which enlightens and enlivens the customary dead notes of dry interpretation. Here for instance is a note on "Propriety of Person": "No people in the world are physically so clean as the English. The belief in the daily bath is the basis of England's general health and athletic superiority. (By this latter term—it may be added for boys who are acquainted with athletic records—one does not mean the question whether England's picked university athletes may win or lose from similar American representatives in any given year: one means the fact that the *mass* of Englishmen are athletically superior to the men of the other nations)." But the editor is altogether too sparing of such readable notes: such a touch makes one wish that Professor Sampson were more lavish in his literary notes, especially in dealing with the old familiars of Irving's classics, "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" and "Rip Van Winkle." The volume contains a hitherto unpublished portrait of Irving by Carl Vogel von Vogelstein, sketched from life while Irving was in Dresden in 1823.

"The American Scholar," "Self-Reliance," "Compensation," "Friendship," "Prudence," "Shakespeare," and "Gifts" are the choice of Dr. Van Dyke for his *Select Essays of Emerson*. His introduction deals with Emerson's ancestry and boyhood, college life, teaching and pastorate, travel, study, and self-discovery, and with Emerson as a lecturer and as an author. That Dr. Van Dyke believes that Emerson's essays are not incoherent Delphic oracles, incapable of rhetorical analysis, is evidenced by his prefatory note to each essay. These prefatory notes give a clear, logical, and interesting analysis of each essay